



Caltrans Proposal Response

Subject: Change Permit Policy to Authorize Increased Tire Capacity

Proposal Date: January 2, 2007

Response Date: August 28, 2008

Policy: Transportation Permit Manual, Chapter 3, Section 302.7

I. CHANGE CURRENT PERMIT POLICY TO ALIGN WITH PREEMPTIVE FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD (FMVSS) # 119.

Industry Proposed Revision:

This proposal seeks to revise Section 302.7 "Tire Capacity" of the Transportation Permits Manual (TPM) in order to allow movement at reduced speed to qualify for greater weight authorized by Title 13, Article 14 of the California Administrative Code (**Currently: California Code of Regulations**). Industry is proposing to delete the second paragraph of Section 302.7.

TPM Chapter 3, Section 302.7 TIRE CAPACITY: (Proposed)

Extralegal weight is not authorized on any axle unless this axle is equipped with tires of a total capacity equal to or greater than the weight requested. The tire with the least capacity shall be used to determine axle weight if equipped with tires of different rating capacity.

~~*Movement at reduced speed to qualify for greater weight authorized by Title 13, Article 14 of the California Administrative Code will not be permitted.*~~

The Department's Response:

Given the cost of fuel today, it is critical for us to find ways to move greater loads more efficiently. We appreciate the purpose behind your proposed manual change. However, the Department, which works in concert with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) which has responsibility for managing travel speeds, has no way to ensure the safety of the traveling public if this proposal were implemented. Current technology does not permit the inspection of loads with varying tire capacities and tying that to vehicle speeds. The Department will remain open to information from other States to see if this issue has been safely resolved elsewhere.